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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2012

HIGH STREET SHOWCASE EVENTS HIT BY RED TAPE

THE future of major events in Barry's High Street, such as the Christmas light switch-on, are hanging in the balance.

"A hard thankless task" – that is how the former chairman of High Street Traders' Association has described putting on events for the public – and all because of what he believes are the excessive demands of the health and safety culture.

Tony Hopkins explained: "I first became involved with High Street Traders in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"With a wonderful team of volunteers behind me, I became chairman for a few years.

"In those days, it used to be good fun, with just a few common sense rules.

"We had a great time

holding street parties and entering the Barry Carnival.

"We even used to have a pancake race. On Shrove Tuesday, we used to close the street with bollards, put some lines across it and 20 to 30 entrants would run along High Street flipping their pancakes, with crowds cheering on the pavements."

Fast forward 20 years and those much-loved traditions are a thing of the past. The contrast between the carefree, fun-filled days before the turn of the millennium and more recent history can be gauged by the obstacles faced by Tony and fellow organisers over the last three years.

"In 2009, I was given the opportunity of becoming chairman once again, and with the help of Sharon and Helen George, of MJM Computers, we set about



REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

LEFT: Pancake races in High Street are a thing of the past...

organising a series of events that would raise the profile of High Street and be fun at the same time.

"There were Easter bonnet parades, children's choirs for St David's Day, and our famous Christmas light switch-on, to name a few.

"But thanks to ongoing health and safety requirements, these fun events became harder and harder to organise.

"We had to have £2million worth of insurance cover just to put up Welsh flags for St David's Day!

"The last straw came during the run-up to our Christmas switch-on in 2011, arguably one of the best-attended events that High Street has ever seen.

"Behind the scenes, Sharon, Helen and I worked tirelessly, putting together all the stage

acts, music, stalls and rides.

"Then we were told that we had to draw up a 21-point health and safety risk assessment and a traffic management plan!"

"THANKLESS"

If there was uncertainty on any point in the forms, it meant more work re-filling in the paperwork and further delays.

Tony said that the preparation and planning was so time-consuming

that the organisers found it almost impossible to do their 'real jobs'.

Reluctantly, High Street organisers have admitted that stifling bureaucracy has finally got the better of them.

"Once Christmas was over, we decided enough was enough, it's not fun any more, just a hard thankless task.

"I recently announced that I was to step down as chairman, and as yet no one has been brave enough or stupid enough

to take over.

"With all of the red tape and rules and regulations now involved, I can honestly say that I don't blame them."

"SUPPORTIVE"

Tony said that both the Vale Council and Barry Town Council had been hugely supportive over the years.

"The Vale Council sponsors the Christmas event and the staging, and the town council sponsors the lights."

Although the Vale

Council has a central role in enforcing safety regulations, Tony emphasised he attached no blame to it, because health and safety dictates are enforced nationally.

He insisted: "Common sense and simple rules have been replaced by red tape that strangles any initiative. It's like coming up against a brick wall."

Tony and some other traders are examining the possibility of running some small events that avoid the draconian attentions of health and safety law, and the need for road closures.

Prestige events have been an ideal showcase for the attractions of High Street over the years.

However, Tony hopes that following the regeneration of Holton Road and Thompson Street, funds may arrive at last in Barry's West End to deal with some of its long-term issues.

He said he hoped the local regeneration board would look on its claims favourably: "I put forward some proposals for improvements for High Street that included better parking facilities, improved street lighting, wheelchair friendly pavements, and some street furniture – all aimed at sprucing up High Street and making it more attractive to customers and new business ventures."

The recent relocation of the doctors' surgery to the Waterfront area has meant a lost foothold of more than 10,000 people for local businesses.

Tony stressed: "There is plenty of potential in High Street. We just need some investment to get things rolling."

He added: "Whatever happens in the future at High Street, Sharon, Helen and I would like to thank the people of Barry for all their support over the years."

'DO MORE TO CREATE JOBS IN BARRY'

PLAID CYMRU councillor Barry Shaw has called on the Vale Council to help create jobs for young people in Barry, as a UK-wide report named the Castletand ward among the highest for youth unemployment.

The report by ACEVO, the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, listed youth unemployment for the ward as being 15.23 per cent in a report published last week.

Coun Shaw, who has represented the ward since 2004 on Barry Town Council, said that the Vale could learn from the apprenticeships scheme for young people being piloted at Plaid-led Caerphilly Council.

He went on: "I was very worried when I saw these youth unemployment figures, because each of these represents a young person from Barry who is not reaching their potential."

"Despite being close to the town centre and a short train ride from Cardiff, lots of young people in the middle of Barry are not in education, employment or training."

"Plaid have shown their consistent support for Barry, with Plaid Cymru ensuring that Barry was named a Regeneration Zone in 2010 – and backed it with £9m of funding after Labour had ignored the town for a decade," he claimed.

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Royal gardener's close links with the Vale recalled

AS THIS is the year we are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, I thought it would be nice to remember the head gardener of Buckingham Palace, Mr Nutbeam.

Prior to his appointment, he was head gardener at St Donats Castle before it became Atlantic International College.

He and his wife came back on a visit to Llantwit Major in the early sixties, which is when I met him one morning out shopping.

Our family knew him from his early days when

my father, Sydney Howard, was maintaining the electricity at the castle.

While in Llantwit, he showed me some photographs of Buckingham gardens, which at that time were in black and white.

He told me that when his daughter was getting married, Her Majesty kindly gave her a cheque for £10,000, which was worth quite a lot then.

Later we saw him on television with the Queen, walking around the Palace gardens, on his retirement.

It was printed on the cover of the Radio Times, in colour.

Faith Francis, Llantwit Major

Enthralling talk on Llantwit history

I WOULD like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Llantwit Major Local History Society for staging another interesting and well-attended talk last week.

I was delighted to be able to join over 60 other local residents to hear Mrs Christine Young talk enthusiastically and knowledgeably about 'Llantwit Major and District from the air'.

Mrs Young shared with us how the town has evolved since the 1920s and how well-known names and families from the area played a pivotal role in the development of the town.

The society seeks to preserve and promote the great heritage of the settlement at Llanillthfawr and the surrounding area.

The society's annual lecture programme runs from September to April, and I'd thoroughly recommend attending one of the series.

The society's archive room at the Old School is open every Friday (not public holidays) from 2pm and is well worth a visit if you'd like to find out more about the town's history past or present.

Congratulations once again to the committee and members of the society who all help bring to life Llantwit's great history.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale.

Why stop the traffic?

WHY has a plan to stop traffic turning right on to Buttrills Road ever been thought of?

It is just a further nail in the coffin of Holton Road, which has already had most of the parking removed and pavements widened when it was not needed.

If you live east of Buttrills Road, it is really necessary to have to use one of the busiest roundabouts in Barry – just to have to come back on yourself?

So why has this even been thought of? Could the Vale of Glamorgan Council please explain?
Shane Overton, Barry.

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Plaid leadership candidate warns: 'Local newspapers are vital to communities!'

I WANTED to express my concern at proposals by the Welsh Government to remove the requirement for local authorities and Ministers to advertise road traffic orders in local newspapers.

Newspapers are a vital part of our communities. They perform an important public service by holding public bodies to account for their policies and the way they spend money, and the loss of advertising revenue at this time could well put titles and jobs at significant risk.

I, and many other politicians, are concerned

at the weak state of the media industry in Wales, compared to Scotland. Scant coverage is given to Welsh affairs in the UK media and this proposal will weaken the newspaper industry in Wales further, perhaps fatally.

Communities in Wales cannot afford to lose their local newspapers, which provide a wealth of information, and I urge the Welsh Government to rethink this proposition.

People have until February 29, 2012, to submit objections. Information can be obtained on <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/transport/traffic-orders/>

**Leanne Wood AM,
(Plaid Cymru leadership candidate)**

'Barry needs more vision'

AFTER reading a GEM article regarding the development of Barry Island Pleasure Park, I have some concerns and questions.

While I applaud the improvements of facilities for residents and visitors alike, such as a cinema at Barry Island Pleasure Park, one wonders if we will end up with just a load of quick money-making schemes of retail units and flats.

Will we, the people of Barry, be sold down the river on a possible promise of a cinema, which already seems to have been reduced in size?

Doesn't 124 flats and retail units suggest an awful lot of traffic on a road notorious for traffic jams, especially in the

summer months?

I do hope that this development will have a little more vision for Barry residents and visitors to enjoy, and not just be another estate.

Was not planning permission for three bungalows at the old Barry Island Resort previously turned down when it was open and yet when closed down, somehow ended up with houses built all over it?

Could not more have been done at the Waterfront? It has many houses and retail facilities but very little by way of amenities for residents and visitors to enjoy.

It would be wonderful if it could be developed in such a way that the people of Barry could be proud of.
(Name and address supplied)

'Clamp down on these metal thieves'

I AM deeply disappointed that the Westminster Government has decided to block the Graham Jones (Labour) Private Member's Bill to tackle metal theft throughout the UK.

This decision proves that this Tory/Lib Dem Government refuses to take the urgent action required to deal with this devastating crime.

Our communities are facing relentless attacks by metal thieves and those unscrupulous metal dealers who are turning a blind eye to this growing crime. At a time when our schools and hospitals are struggling for money to keep their services open, they are facing bills worth hundreds of thousands of pounds due to damage caused by metal thieves.

Even the lead flashing from the roofs of local pensioner bungalows was targeted by these heartless criminals. Then Llandough Hospital was targeted which led to the cancellations of 81 operations including eight for cancer patients.

But perhaps most shockingly was when the metal direction signs were stolen from Barry Cemetery costing the council thousands of pounds to replace. Unbelievably, only 18 people last year were prosecuted under the 1964 Scrap Metal Dealers Act, with the average fine just £379. Now that's not what I would call a deterrent!

**Rob Curtis, Barry
(Labour councillor)**

Vale Forum voice for the young

ON January 23, young people from all over the Vale joined together in Penarth to give their views on the new Local Participation Strategy (not as boring as you may think!) from the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government want to have a rule that the Vale Council (plus the 21 other local authorities) have a Youth Forum and will make them talk to young people when they are planning local services that will affect young people.

The VYF meet monthly in the Civic Offices on Holton Road in Barry. We also run projects, consultation events and training to help young people be active citizens and take part in local democracy.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Vale Youth Forum, just give me a ring or email me. Hope to hear from you soon.

Helena Jones, coordinator (telephone 02920 701254 or 07526449720) or email me on valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk

Helena Jones, Penarth

Trinity Street traffic fiasco disappointment

I TOO, was disappointed, but not surprised, by the announcement that there was to be no improvements to Trinity Street traffic problems in Barry.

I endorse what Gaynor Maddox said in The GEM (26/02/12). If we get another opportunity to vote on the issue, we work together and not individually.

To explain my point: Our local councillor, another resident and I spent hours knocking on doors, asking the residents to vote for option 1, democratically voted for on June 19, 2010 over options 2 and 3 (my option was 2).

So, instead of the residents agreeing to this trial; it was an experiment for 18 months and if not successful it was

to be reviewed. Instead, individuals offered their opinion on how to solve the traffic problems – the democratic vote for option 1 was scuppered.

If the Vale wanted an opportunity to abandon this scheme, the residents handed them one.

It will be interesting to read the reply to Mrs Linda Callows' request for an explanation on this issue (The GEM, February 2).

Historical facts: 90 houses in Trinity Street; 47 responses received; 23 for option 1; eight for option 2; and eight for option 3. Also, option 1 was the least expensive.

My grateful thanks to The GEM for giving space to this problem.

**Brian Allen
(Trinity street resident for 55 years)**

Huge benefits of Reindeer parade

WE read with concern your article in the January 19 edition of The GEM.

In our view, the annual Reindeer parade is a wonderful event, which provides enjoyment for thousands of people of all ages – as well as promoting and raising the profile of the town and raising money for local charities.

The benefits cannot just be measured on the day. It is difficult to imagine that many people who enjoy the day are not encouraged to return throughout the year, thereby helping to maintain and enhance the vibrancy of the town.

It would be a great pity if the Cowbridge community, as a whole, are not able to sustain the event.

On the day, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge

Lions Club provide stewarding, with assistance of Cowbridge Rotary, and do a bucket collection for local charities.

We also organise and run the free Santa's Grotto, which is a popular attraction with younger children, as well as their parents and grandparents.

Last year, we raised £1,600, which is being used to benefit local good causes, especially for children and young people.

For example, the local Barnardo's group and Christmas gift appeal for disadvantaged children.

We really hope that the annual Reindeer parade can be maintained for the benefit of the whole Vale community.

John Andrew, (Secretary, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club)

Losers were the winners?

MR Christopher Short (GEM letters, last week) questions who really won the Second World War? If he equates the death and destruction on mainland Europe inflicted by the Americans, British and Russians as winning, that is a view he is entitled to.

However, spend more than a little time in both Germany and Japan today – then make a direct comparison of all aspects of life there and in Great Britain – and it is obvious who won in the long term!

Brian Williams, Barry

Coping with computer scam

HAVING just read an article in The GEM about a PC scam, I received three phone calls from such types last week.

I knew from the start of the conversation that it was a scam – an Indian voice, poor English-speaking, claiming to have had reports from my computer about it being infected.

Luckily, I live with a computer IT specialist.

I let them talk for about two minutes (wasting their phone bill,

not mine) then I hit them with my knowledge. They hung up in less than two seconds.

If anyone gets a call claiming their computer has sent back information stating that there is a problem, tell the person on the other end of the phone that you are an IT specialist, you know that your computer is not infected, and you know they are trying to scam you.

It has worked for me every time.

Colin Templeton-Northcote

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 23)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
16 Thu	00.17	8.0	12.59	7.9
17 Fri	01.49	7.9	14.29	7.8
18 Sat	03.19	8.0	15.57	8.0
19 Sun	04.25	8.6	16.58	8.6
20 Mon	05.17	9.2	17.42	9.1
21 Tues	06.03	9.6	18.26	9.5
22 Wed	06.41	9.9	19.01	9.7
23 Thur	07.17	9.9	19.33	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Historian Tom puts National Eisteddfod in the picture!



ABOVE: Tom Clemett is holding a photographic exhibition at 'The Room in the Park' in Cadoxton.

LOCAL historian Tom Clemett describes himself modestly as 'a post card collector', but for many people in Barry, he is a mine of information about the origins and history of the town – and is even helping the National Eisteddfod out later this year.

Tom (80) is currently holding an exhibition of photographs at 'The Room in the Park', the park in question being Victoria Park, Cadoxton, just a stone's throw from his house.

Tom explained: "Butlins is the main theme of the exhibition, but there are photographs of other areas of Barry life too."

They include old images of the Island, the docks, the ships that visited the town, and merchant seamen from 1898 to 1904.

Tom's attachment to the town seems strange when you first hear that he was born on the south coast of England, but he has the most compelling explanation.

by TIM CHAPMAN

"I was born in Southampton, but my mother and father were from Barry."

"We used to come home regularly for holidays."

"In 1940, Southampton was bombed out and we returned home for good. I would have been about eight years old."

Tom had family who worked on Barry Island and he began collecting postcards of local scenes.

"I would get the cards and wonder about the background to them. I'd then look through the reference library for more details."

Tom left school at the age of 14 and served 60 years in the printing trade in Cardiff and Barry.

He's accumulated such an impressive treasure trove of photographic and historical material over the decades that an august Welsh institution has knocked on his door

recently. "I'm lending the National Eisteddfod a lot of photographs from the last time it was held in the Vale in 1968."

"The Maes was located where Highlight Park, Barry is now. The opening was held in Gladstone Gardens opposite the Memorial Hall." With a twinkle in his eye, Tom added: "George Thomas was there: I think he was a speaker."

This year is the third time the cultural festival has visited the Vale. In 1922, it was held at Romilly Park in the town.

Tom may insist that he is "just a post card collector", but to those who know him and have read his articles he is an inexhaustible source of information about Barry.

Coun Theo Stenstrom, who popped in to view the photos on February 10, urged local people to drop into Tom's exhibition in the park:

"There is a pleasure in recollection and for local people who want to know about their history, it provides a fascinating visit," he said.

The exhibition will run at The Room in the Park from 10am to 4pm every day until March 4. (Please bear in mind that on Sunday it closes for an hour across lunchtime to allow the supervisor time to have a bite to eat!)

Castleland volunteers look forward to a bright future

VOLUNTEERS in Castleland have now taken possession of the newly refurbished community centre.

As reported in The GEM last week, a hand-over by the architects and contractors, marked the completion of phase one of the £500,000 project.

The community centre hopes to be fully operational by March 1 – St David's Day.

The community will be able to use a new activity hall, benefit from IT facilities and will have the opportunity to meet in a new cafe.



ABOVE:

Castleland Community Centre volunteers in the main hall with representatives of the architects and contractors at the official hand over of the building.

Barry folk keep on giving for Macmillan cancer charity

RIGHT:

Colleagues Sandra Downing, Catherine Lock and Sue Peppiatt of Bonmarche in Holton Road are encouraging customers to purchase £1 security 'purse bells' which alert people to pickpockets. The proceeds are going to Macmillan Cancer Care. So far staff have raised more than £300 for one of Britain's most worthy causes in less than a month.



Island pupils are super heroes!

ON Friday, February 10, Barry Island school children undertook local litter picking as part of their 'Super Hero Day'.

Organised by one of their teachers, Miss Erica Jones, the six and seven year olds spent time clearing up rubbish on Clive Road steps.

The year 1 and year 2 pupils now intend to put notices up along the steps informing people they have cleared them up and requesting them not to drop litter in future.

Sarah Philpott of Keep Wales Tidy, which encourages communities to take a pride in their environment, commented: "Keep Wales Tidy encourages people to take responsibility for their local environment so it's promising to see our younger generation doing their bit."

"Thank you to the pupils at Barry Island School for showing how easy it is to keep areas clean and tidy."

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Campaign group welcomes Vale Council's initiative on a 'much-loved' area of town

by TIM CHAPMAN

The Vale Council has announced it intends to consult with the local community – to agree a way forward for the development of land at Cemetery Road in Barry.

As The GEM was going to press yesterday (February 15) a report was being presented to the council's cabinet recommending that a public consultation is undertaken.

The report suggests options for the future use



LEFT: Land at Cemetery Approach will now be used for the community, and not housing – as proposed four years ago.

with local people for the benefit of their community.

The Save Cemetery Approach Action Group, which collected more than 11,000 signatures opposing housing in the area, welcomed the Vale Council's initiative to consult the local community.

Action group supporter Kay Jones commented: "The many thousands of Barry people who signed the original petition to save Cemetery Approach put forward lots of ideas as to how the land could be used. They will be delighted at this initiative by the Vale Council."

Supporters of the action group said they were ready to work with the council, and recognised the professional expertise it has to develop a much-loved area for the benefit of the community.

of the council-owned land, including recreational purposes such as a community park, a garden, a children's play area or allotments.

The two parcels of land in question are located in a prominent area of Barry and border

an important and historic route to Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

The land was previously used as a nursery production unit until 1996, when the nursery was closed for economic reasons.

Over the years, the

land has fallen into a state of neglect, and a proposal to develop it in 2008 was opposed by local campaigners.

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, commented: "If the report is approved, the consultation process will begin in April 2012."

"We will be looking to develop a recreational area for the community which is accessible and sustainable."

"However, due to financial constraints, we are limited in our options, and we'll be asking the local community to proactively support any future projects."

"Grant funding may also be available for some community-based initiatives. We look forward to seeing this land developed in partnership

'FIRE COULD HAVE BEEN FATAL' – councillor

A housing association has been urged to improve its repair process, following a fire in a flat at Campbell Court, Dock View Road, Barry.

It was claimed that the block of flats had lacked an effective intercom system and residents were concerned following the emergency.

Plaid Cymru councillor Barry Shaw reported that he had been contacted by residents, asking him to assist them.

He went on: "There was a fire recently in Campbell Court and the fire brigade had difficulty accessing these flats."

"This could have had grave consequences."

"Newydd Housing Association has at long last rectified this problem after initially ignoring correspondence."

Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd Housing Association said: "I would like to thank Coun Barry Shaw for raising his concerns."

"We aim to provide excellent customer service to our tenants and customers and would encourage any dissatisfaction to be reported to us."

"We have installed a new intercom system at Campbell Court that is now fully operational in all but one of the properties. We are continuing to work with our tenants at these properties to complete this work."

He continued: "A fire broke out at a property at Campbell Court on Sunday, January 15, which caused extensive damage to a kitchen. We are currently awaiting a fire report."

"However, at this stage we have not been notified by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service that they had any problems accessing this property."

"I would like to encourage our tenants to immediately inform us of any repairs required by calling us, 24 hours a day, on 0303 040 1998."

"Tenants interested in our maintenance service can join our maintenance advisory group where Newydd tenants and staff make decisions on how improvements can be made."

Parliaments get together!

Bryn Hafren pupils Sarah Griffiths and Kathryn Gardner of the iNet Wales Youth Steering Group, who attended a conference at Abertillery Comprehensive, are pictured (right) with other conference pupils.

They are linking up with school parliaments in Wales and Europe.

Cardiff High School representatives will be joining Bryn Hafren School parliament for a day to share good practice in the near future.



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Work on footbridge to start in summer

WORK to replace the footbridge at Barry Island train station is likely to begin this summer.

Last September, Island resident Mr Barrie Evans contacted The GEM to say he was dismayed by the state of the bridge.

He claimed the bridge had been in a dilapidated state for 15 years and the only evidence of recent work was "an inferior repair".

He said at the time: "The work that seems to have been done to the bridge recently is the installation of timber steps eight inches by four inches covered in rubberised felt."

"It does not appear to represent value for money."

This week a Vale

Council spokeswoman told The GEM: "The project to replace the footbridge is now at an advanced stage."

"Subject to the completion of contract documentation, construction work is forecast to commence this summer."

Mr Evans said he was pleased that the council had finally responded to the points made by local people.

Local Plaid councillors Nic Hodges and Steffan William said they were "overjoyed" that work would start soon.

Coun Hodges commented: "Steffan and I have been working for years to get this done."

"Finally, the money is in place with a definite scheme and timetable to put this much needed link between the residen-



ABOVE:
The old footbridge at Barry Island train station is likely to be replaced in the next few months.

tial part of the Island and the train station in place."

Coun William added:

"This should be part of a wider move to continuously upgrade and maintain facilities on the Island."

"The potential of sustainable tourism all along the Vale coastline is enormous and the stretch from Jackson's Bay to Rhose Point deserves particular attention."

'Youth Speaks' Area 8 final



THE Rotary Club of Barry has sponsored two successful teams in the Area 8 final of the 'Youth Speaks' competition, one of several competitions organised by the Rotary movement specifically designed to develop students' skills.

The Area 8 final was held on February 8 in Stanwell Comprehensive School, Penarth, and was hosted by the Rotary Club of Penarth.

Winners in the junior section (11-13 year-olds) were the team from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, whose chosen topic was 'What Role does Sport Play in the Lives of Young People?' Chairperson was Rhianon Berry, speaker was Morwenna Osmond and the vote of thanks was given by Betsan Jones.

In the senior section, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School were the winners. Their team was chaired by Aimee Delaney, their speaker was Lissie Wallington and their vote of thanks was given by Sarah Jayne Griffiths.

The team's chosen topic was 'Play up, play away and play the fool: sports people are not positive role models for the young, and the Olympics not the epitome of sporting prowess and morality.'

Lissie Wallington also won the prize for the best speaker, while Sarah Jayne Griffiths won the prize for the best vote of thanks.

In line with national rules, both speakers had to answer a question from the audience to show their understanding of their chosen topic. The judges were Graeme Milnes and Brian Palmer from Cardiff Speakers' Club and Ceri Jones, assistant principal of Michaelston Community College.

Speaking on behalf of the judges, Graeme Mills congratulated all participants saying that they had all set some very high standards. The president of Penarth Rotary Club, Jonathan Evans, thanked everyone who had supported the area final and

joined with the president of Barry Rotary Club, Dave Ball, to wish the winning teams every success in the Rotary District 1150 final (South, Mid and West Wales) to be held in Crickhowell on Monday, March 5.

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History talk at Rhose

RHOOSE and District History Society would like to invite local people to a talk by David Ball about 'Coastguards'.

It's to be held on Friday, February 24, at 7.30pm, in the rear hall of Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets are available at the door - £1 adults and 50p children (under 16 years old).

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COUNCIL GETS PAT ON THE BACK FROM ITS AUDITORS

THE Vale Council has improved its performance in most key service areas, a report by the Auditor General for Wales has concluded.

In its Annual Improvement Report, good arrangements in

the Wales Audit Office said the council has "strong corporate management arrangements" in place and is improving across a range of services.

The report also notes that:

• The council has

place for managing its resources and driving change.

• The council can demonstrate improvement in most key service areas.

• The council is working effectively with partners to improve community safety and services for specific users.

• The council has made good progress in delivering improvements in social care.

• Results in schools are good but there is a decline in attendance in secondary schools.

• The council has good arrangements in place for setting its objectives and monitoring delivery of actions and is in the early

stages of improving the way in which it evaluates the impact of what it is doing.

• The council is making good use of information and communications technology in the provision of services and delivering efficiencies.

• The council has been praised by the Welsh Language Board for improvements in its services; for achieving the majority of its targets contained within its Welsh Language Scheme.

The Auditor General, Huw Vaughan Thomas, said: "We found that effective financial management, good use of information technology and strengths in people

management were ensuring the council was using most of its resources."

The Leader of the Vale Council, Councillor Gordon Kemp, said: "The report recognises the huge amount of work being done, and which will continue to be carried out in the Vale Council."

"I am pleased that the continuing progress we are making is being recognised by the Wales Audit Office, because it reflects the valuable contribution from all areas of the council."

To see a copy of the Auditor General's report, visit www.wao.gov.uk/home.asp

Barry man's praise for Air Ambulance after rescue drama

by PHILIP IRWIN

A BARRY man is full of praise for the Wales Air Ambulance service after a highly-skilled rescue operation last weekend.

Paul Clemo fell and damaged an ankle in a spot that was miles from any easy access point for paramedics, but a skilled pilot landed his helicopter on a postage stamp to get help to him.

Mr Clemo told The GEM: "Last Saturday (February 11) my partner and I were walking to Aberthaw from Barry on the coastal path when, between Happy Valley and Rhose Point, I fell and damaged my ankle.

"Another walker, who said his name was Larry, helped me up, but I could not stand on my injured right foot.

"My partner dialled 999, and the operator who spoke to me said that due to the location, it may be a while before help arrived.

"I got as comfortable as possible and prepared for a long, cold wait. However, within five minutes, a helicopter arrived overhead, and the pilot phoned to check if I was the casualty.

"Then, to our amazement, it landed on the footpath at the top of the cliff, with fences and hedges either side, and proceeded to edge along as close to me as was safe to do so.

"In a matter of minutes the paramedics had me safely on board and on my way to the Heath Hospital.

"The helicopter was low on fuel, so my partner remained on the footpath holding one very muddy boot and two walking poles!"

Mr Clemo told The GEM: At the moment, the ankle is very swollen and painful, and I am on crutches and putting plenty of ice on it.

"A full diagnosis will have to wait until the swelling goes down."

"We would like to say a big thank you to Larry, to Annette from Rhose who was passing and, seeing my partner's plight, gave her a lift to Barry to pick up her car.

"Especially, I would like to thank the Air Ambulance Service, Chris and Jason, and the very skillful pilot, whose name I don't know.

"I feel so privileged to live in a country where people still care enough to give a stranger in need unconditional help, and emergency medical help is provided when and where needed.

"Please support the Air Ambulance Service - you never know when you might need it!"



ABOVE: Paul Clemo being treated after his fall, with the helicopter in the background.

'Adults' nostalgic games' raise funds for church

HOPING that the spirit of fun is central to this particular fundraising event, an 'Adults Nostalgic Games' evening will take place upstairs in Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Woodland Place, Penarth, on Saturday, February 25, from 7.30pm-10pm.

A spokeswoman said: "There will be no competition, no prizes, no endlessly boring games, just a gentle stroll down Memory Lane to play again some of the games that we enjoyed playing as children.

"Each game will last for about 20 minutes, so that everybody can enjoy a good selection of games during the evening.

"Tea, coffee and biscuits are included in the ticket price, but slices of cake and sweets from our childhood will be on sale in the 'tuck shop'.

Tickets in advance are just £5 per person or £8 per couple, and are available from Sheila James on 02920 701290 and Jackie Marshall on 02920 708762, and tickets on the night will be priced at £5 each. Proceeds from the evening will go to church funds.

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UK BILL OF RIGHTS WILL PROTECT CIVIL LIBERTIES

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

B RITAIN has always valued human rights and has ensured it is reflected within our values and institutions. Indeed, the UK was a founding member of the European Convention on

Human Rights (ECHR) – yet it now seems to have become a real problem to us.

In some instances it prevents us from taking action to protect ourselves and our nation's culture.

This needs to change.

Many of the rights contained within the

convention can be traced back to the Magna Carta and to other laws long established in the UK, and I believe that they remain incredibly relevant today as government works with international partners to protect human rights and strengthen democracy across the world.

Since 2000, the ECHR has been given effect in Britain through the Human Rights Act. On coming into office, the Coalition Government established a Commission to investigate whether the Human Rights Act might be replaced by the creation of a UK Bill of Rights.

This Bill could protect and extend British liberties, incorporate and build on all our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

It would ensure that these rights continue to be enshrined in British law. The Commission is consulting widely and aims to report no later than by the end of 2012.

The Government is



Vale MP Alun Cairns
reports to GEM readers

now using its chairmanship of the Council of Europe (the body which oversees the Court) to champion the need for the reform of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

The ECHR has a vital role to play, but as its caseload has increased in recent years, so we have seen lengthy delays, and questions raised over the quality of its judges.

There is also concern about whether it gives enough weight to deci-

sions made by legitimate national courts.

This threatens its reputation as a beacon for the cause of human rights, ruthlessly focussed on defending human freedom and dignity. The court must refocus itself on its original purpose – upholding the Convention and preventing the serious abuse of human rights.

The European Court of Human Rights has recently blocked Abu Qatada's deportation on

the grounds that Jordan might use evidence obtained by torture against him – even though the UK and Jordan had previously reached agreement that he would not be tortured if he was deported.

The cleric faces terror charges in Jordan and the UK Government says he is a threat to national security, but a British judge decided earlier this week that his six-year detention could no longer be sustained after the ECHR's ruling.

I think that this ECHR ruling has created a frustrating and difficult position for the UK, but trust that the UK Home Office and the Foreign Office will work closely with the Jordanian government to find an effective solution to this case in particular.

Later in the year, we return to the issue of voting rights for prisoners, a matter that deeply concerns me.

BINGO PRIZE!

REPRESENTATIVES of ValePlus, the Vale-based charity which provides learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, were recently invited to attend a presentation evening at Cadoxton Bingo Club.

Mrs Jean Kirke, on behalf of the club, handed over a cheque for £455 to ValePlus director Melanie Carter and Chris Power.

Chris thanked everyone present for their fundraising efforts and Melanie added that such a large donation would help provide funding for specially-adapted equipment for the members to use.

Anyone wishing to know more about the work done by ValePlus, can check the website at www.valeplus.org.uk or contact Melanie Carter on 01446 746691.

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DROP-IN SESSIONS ABOUT THE EMISSION REDUCTION PROJECT AT ABERTHAW POWER STATION

RWE npower is currently developing proposals to install technology at Abertthaw Power Station that would limit emissions of the NO_x released as a result of the combustion process and further reduce the environmental impact of the station.

The next stage of the Emission Reduction Project will be to submit a planning application to Vale of Glamorgan Council to fit the technology, known as selective catalytic reduction (SCR), later this year. We will also be seeking a variation to our operating license from the Environment Agency to incorporate these improvements to the station.

In advance of the application submission, we are holding three drop-in sessions to provide you with an opportunity to find out more about our proposals and speak to RWE npower representatives about any questions you might have.

The sessions will take place on:

Thursday 1 March – 12:00 until 19:00
Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, CF62 3EZ

Friday 2 March – 12:00 until 19:00
St Athan Community Hall, Glynw Avenue, St Athan, CF62 4PP

Saturday 3 March – 13:00 until 17:00
Llanterian Hall, Llantwit Major, CF61 1TF

We hope to see you at one of these sessions and look forward to hearing your views and answering any questions you might have about our proposals. In the meantime, if you require further information please contact us at abertthaw@rwe-npower.com.

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Sustainable new development a priority in Wales

WALES has led the way in promoting a sustainable development scheme 'One Wales: One Planet', which aims to put this policy at the heart of government – influencing all our decisions – to ensure that we make the best possible use of our national resources.

Dating back to 2009, when it was adopted and published, the scheme is now a central organising principle in policy and budget-making in the Welsh Government.

This means that we need to manage our environment and resources effectively – Welsh land, sea, air and water – but also recognise the opportunities we have to embed this in the development of our economy and public services.

John Griffiths AM, the Environment and Sustainable Development Minister, recently reported to the Assembly on the outcome of an independent review of this scheme to see what we have achieved, and how we could improve our implementation of the scheme across government.

It came to the conclusion that positive progress has been made by the Welsh Government, but highlighted that there is more to do to build on the work undertaken.

The report also highlights the Climate Change Strategy and 'Arbed' as two examples of progress which are to be commended. I have just announced further investment in Arbed, which invests in energy efficiency measures in housing, extending across Wales in April, resulting in jobs in the construction sector and new apprenticeship

opportunities.

The reviewers also cite the Child Poverty Strategy, 21st Century Schools programme and Food Strategy as being examples of underpinning policies with sustainable development principles.

We have also co-funded the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, recently publishing the results of this independent research project which analyses risks and opportunities impacting on our infrastructure investment as well as our health, biodiversity management and the delivery of services.

For Wales, this risk assessment identifies the impact of a changing climate with key threats including increased flooding on the coast and inland rivers, as well as lower river flows and water shortage in summer.

Last year, we published our National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management to raise awareness of the risks and reduce the consequences, which we know of so well in the Vale.

I have recently announced more funding for flood alleviation projects in Wales.

In a statement to the Assembly, John Griffiths said that climate change is the greatest environmental challenge we face. He said that preparing for a changing climate is vital if we are to ensure that Wales is

an attractive place to live and do business during the 21st century and beyond.

That is our goal and objective as a Welsh Government – putting sustainable development at the heart of everything we do.

With more than 100 organisations signing up to our Sustainable Development Charter, we are on the right road to achieve that in partnership with the public, private and third sectors, but most importantly with the people of Wales.

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Finance and
Leader of the House)

New date for Vale AM's surgery in Cowbridge

THE Assembly Member for the vale of Glamorgan, Jane Hutt, will not be holding a surgery on February 18 at Cowbridge Town Hall, as previously advertised.

The surgery has now been moved to February 25, from 10am to 12 noon. Ms Hutt's office apologises for any inconvenience.

There is no need to book appointments ahead, but further information can be obtained from Camilla Beaven on 02920 898469, or by emailing camilla.beaven@wales.gov.uk.



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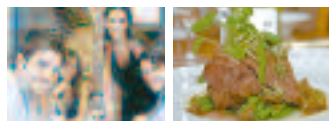
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£4,000 windfall for local community groups



A TOTAL of £4,000 was donated to local good causes by Waitrose Barry, at a recent presentation evening.

They had taken part in the branch's 'Community Matters' initiative between September and December 2011.

Each month, three local causes are supported by the branch, with £1,000 being shared out between them.

The evening was hosted by Adrian Higham and Vicky Barree.

Cheques were presented for the following amounts: Penarth Gateway Club £400; 11th Barry Sea Scouts £340; Sully RFC £260;

Ascent Climbing Club £210; Penarth Hard of Hearing Club £490; Act-4-Fun Children's Theatre £300; All Saints Primary School Community Garden £490; Caerau Dragon Bowmen £200; Ty Iolo £360; Ty'r Fro £300; Ty John Rowley £340.

The remaining £310 was donated as gift vouchers to various schools and groups for use with their Christmas fundraising.

If any local groups would like to be considered for Community Matters in the future, nomination forms are available from the 'Welcome Desk'; or contact the Waitrose branch for more information.

ABOVE:
The local groups who lined up for the Waitrose windfall.

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows

Tuesday, February 7, session one, mixed pairs championship.

In first place were Irene Thomas and Graham Jones with 60.32 per cent. Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas were second with 57.94, and in third were Carol James and Mike Close (57.64).

Celia and Huw won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. Telephone 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, on Tuesdays at 7 pm.

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/gemnews, or follow us on Twitter: @gem_news.

Audit Report brings cheer to Vale

I WAS pleased to see that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has received positive results in the Annual Improvement Audit.

The Wales Audit Office (WAO) report highlights significant performance improvements across most key service areas within the council and confirms we have strong corporate management arrangements in place to secure continuing improvements across a range of services.

Highlights include:

- The council can demonstrate improvement in most key service areas.

- The council has good arrangements in place for managing its resources and driving

change.

- The council is working effectively with partners to improve community safety and services for specific users.

- The council has made good progress in delivering improvements in social care.

- Results in schools are good, but there is a decline in attendance in secondary schools.

- The council has good arrangements in place for setting its objectives and monitoring delivery of actions and is in the early stages of improving the way in which it evaluates the impact of what it is doing.

- The council is making good use of information and communica-

tions technology in the provision of services and delivering efficiencies.

- The council has been praised by the Welsh Language Board for improvements in its services; for achieving the majority of the targets in its Welsh Language Scheme.

The WAO found council performance in delivering disabled facilities grants (DFGs) was poor, but also noted there had been improvements in recent years.

The council has prioritised this area of work and has already reduced delivery times significantly and, with new initiatives being introduced, will continue this improvement next year.

The delivery of DFGs for adults has improved over the last three quarters of 2011/12 to approximately 401 days.

Last year, the Welsh average was approximately 387 days. The council's current performance is within sight of this timescale. To see a copy of the report, visit www.wao.gov.uk/home.asp.

'Ash Path'
PLEASE news, too, for Dinas Powys residents who use the 'Ash Path' over the fields to Penarth. At Easter, we will be erecting a 1.2m high metal fence along the Ash Path route, which runs from



by Coun
GORDON KEMP
Leader of
the Vale Council

Murch Road in Dinas to Sully Road.

This will protect users from livestock in the field through which the footpath passes. The Ash Path is an important link for local people, especially as it is regularly used by school children attending St Cyres Comprehensive School.

It will also continue to be an important link when the new Penarth Learning Community is opened, subject to planning permission, in October 2014.

Consultation
BARRY residents will be pleased to know we will soon be holding a public consultation on what to do with the empty land at Cemetery Road. Possible options

include recreational purposes such as a community park, a garden, a children's play area or allotments, but we are looking for public opinion on the most appropriate course of action.

The consultation process begins in April, and all interested parties will have their chance to email, write or phone us with their opinions and recommendations.

Grant blow
UNFORTUNATELY, it's not all good news for the Vale this month. We've recently received disappointing news of a 27 per cent reduction (£123,000) in the Local Transport Services Grant, which we fear may impact on local transport services in the Vale.

The Vale's cabinet member for planning and transportation, Coun Jeffrey James, has written to the Welsh Government expressing 'very serious concerns' that services may suffer or be lost as a result of the cutbacks.

This reduction is 5 per cent higher than the reductions being imposed in England and Coun James has expressed concerns that bus providers may be put off from tendering for routes.

However, we will be discussing with neighbouring authorities whether, through joint working, we can ensure the provision of the best possible service.

Fire on board coaster

BARRY Dock Lifeboat, along with Portishead Lifeboat and SARA lifeboats, were launched to aid a coaster which reported an engine room fire, but the

crew put out the blaze themselves. Spokesman Gerry Adams said: "The coaster was due to sail into Avonmouth and had lost all power. The Barry Dock lifeboat crew stood by the stricken coaster

and was able to coordinate the other rescue craft until tugs were on scene to tow the coaster into the Avonmouth dock."

There were no reported injuries and all lifeboats returned to their ports.



The Changing Face of St Clare's

ST CLARE'S School in Porthcawl is planning big changes in preparation for their 75th anniversary next year.

Having secured a large investment from the School's owners, there are plans in progress to significantly improve the facilities available as well as the subject offering to pupils in all years.

The first phase of the development is due to start this Summer, as builders move in to construct a new Dining Hall and Home Economics teaching space, as well as relocating and improving the Nursery facilities.

Following these first steps, the rest of the work will follow in quick succession, including introducing a new Arts Centre, 6th Form block, extended library areas for both Senior and Junior pupils and more.

The School will also be introducing new transport routes to and from towns and villages in the Vale of Glamorgan, thereby easing access to the School for the many parents in these areas who are presently unable to reach it.

St Clare's will be holding an Open Afternoon on Friday 24th February, from 1.30pm onwards, for anyone who would like to have a look around the magnificent 7 acre site, speak to Head Teacher John Aguilar and meet the pupils.

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Marie Curie Cancer Care provides high quality nursing, totally free, to give terminally ill people the choice of dying at home, supported by their families

The GEM is making a donation to Marie Curie Cancer Care as a result of this advertisement feature



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Pleased to support the Marie Curie Appeal

Senedd hosts launch of 2012 Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal

ON February 7, the Vale AM and Finance Minister, Jane Hutt, joined Marie Curie Cancer Care staff and nurses at the Senedd – to launch the charity's Great Daffodil Appeal.

The appeal is Marie Curie's biggest fundraising campaign and asks people all over the UK to wear a daffodil pin in support of Marie Curie Nurses, in return for a donation.

Marie Curie Cancer Care's director of policy and public affairs, said: "Most of us, if we were dying, would want to be cared for at home, close to family and friends, as well as the things we love. "Research shows that 67 per cent of people in Wales would choose to die in their own home if they were terminally ill – yet the majority of people in Wales still die in hospital; where they say they least want to be. "Marie Curie Cancer Care is working to ensure more people are able to spend their final days in a place of their choice. "By supporting our Great Daffodil Appeal, you are helping to raise vital funds which allow Marie Curie nurses to provide more free care to people with terminal cancer and other illnesses in their own homes or in one of the charity's hospices."

To find out how you can get involved in the Great Daffodil Appeal, please visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil or call 0845 601 3107.



ABOVE: Vale AM Jane Hutt, Jan Stuart, a nurse based at Marie Curie's Penarth Hospice, and Gareth Williams, the chair of Marie Curie advisory board in Wales.

Marie Curie Cancer Care Devoted to Life

I enclose a donation payable to Marie Curie Cancer Care of:

£25 £15 £10

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I am interested in doing some voluntary work such as in a shop or fundraising.

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Please return this form to: Georgina Burke, Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR

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Thanking everyone for their continued support

Marie Curie's care in the community

The Daffodil Appeal is an annual appeal and over the next few weeks, people in Wales will see volunteers out and about, asking people to wear a daffodil and make a donation.

One of Marie Curie's main aims is to provide people with the opportunity to die at home, if that is their wish.

Research shows that most people would like to do that, but more than 50 per cent of cancer deaths still occur in hospital, the place people say they would least like to be.

Since 2004 Marie Curie Cancer Care has been campaigning for more patients to be able to die in their place of choice and last year the charity made this possible for more than 31,000 people.

Eileen Mills, is one of the charity's nursing ambassadors, and explained why home support is so crucial.

She said: "I see at first hand what it means for patients to have the choice of where to spend their final days, sur-

rounded by family and friends, which is why the appeal is so important.

"I am able to make my patient my one and only priority.

"It's wonderful to know I can offer them quality, personalised care without any interruptions."

Marie Curie supporter, Edwina Gudgeon said: "I wear my daffodil with pride every year, as a reminder of the wonderful support the Marie Curie nurses gave to my family."

"We relied on the support of their nurses to look after my younger sister at home before she died, and I will always be grateful for the care the whole family received."

Daffodil pins can be picked up from local stores, Marie Curie volunteer collectors, Marie Curie Shops and the via the charity's hyperlink www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil website; or call 0845 601 3107.

To get help from the Marie Curie Nursing Service, talk to your GP, district nurse or discharge nurse.

Hair business with unique twist

INSPIRATIONS, a business with a unique twist, was set up in Pencoed by Heather Drake, a well-established hair designer, with more than 22 years' experience in the industry.

For years, she has specialised in designing wigs and hair pieces for people with medical conditions that result in hair loss.

Her warm, friendly approach has been embraced within the community, and her enthusiasm shows through her work. Specialised items include lace enhancers (made on the premises) integrations and organic hair colouring.

Customer Andrea says: "I lost my hair recently to chemotherapy, something I found very traumatic. Initially, I bought a wig elsewhere, but was never impressed with it.

"As a result, I approached Heather and I immediately felt relaxed in her company. She patiently helped me to select a wig and cut it to style.

Heather provides an all-round service in a private and discreet environment.

"I feel grateful to her for turning a potentially very traumatic experience into a positive one."

Contact Heather on 01656 859528, or call into the salon at 6a Pen-y-Bont Road, Pencoed, CF35 5RA.

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wish the Daffodil Campaign every suc-

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Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil Campaign



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BACK in the good old days before the banking crash, there was a popular saying that went 'I'm cash rich – but time poor'.

Well, it turned out that the property boom was all a big bubble and ordinary folk have watched the politicians and bankers play the blame game for several years now.

The only certainty is that there are not so many people claiming to be cash rich now!

However, there are even more of us now who are definitely 'time poor'.

It seems that many people are working longer hours – and then there are so many routine things that need attention when you do make it home.

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increasing your stress levels by tackling something that has hidden pitfalls that you only discover through bitter experience.

(CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE).

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The accent in these cash-strapped times is on customer service – in all areas.

Once upon a time,

there was a ‘war between the two big car hire companies in the USA – Hertz and Avis.

Hertz was the big-

ger, so Avis adopted the slogan ‘We Try Harder’.

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Volunteer group aims to befriend those in need

DINAS Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC), a charity that provides help for local people, has embarked on a new 'befriending' project in association with The Big Lottery and with The Vale Centre for Voluntary Services.

Both men and women often find it difficult to readjust after losing, or becoming separated from, family or friends.

One of the aims of the project is to help reduce feelings of loss and isolation by developing a social network within the community.

Angela Campbell, who lives locally, has been appointed as the DPVC befriending coordinator

and will be working with the existing team to develop and expand the support already offered by DPVC.

Her specific role will be to meet and support new and existing volunteers, to provide training for them as necessary, and to be a link between these volunteers, those they support, and the local community.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the DPVC befriending project, or if you live in the Dinas Powys area and you, or someone you know, would like more information, contact Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern on 029 2051 3700 or email: dpvc@btinternet.com.

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Resource service helps people maintain their independence in their home

REGAINING and maintaining your independence after a period of ill health, injury, or as a result of a long term chronic condition, can be difficult to manage.

As part of ongoing service improvements, the Vale Council and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board are working together to provide a new Vale Community Resource Service (VCRS).

How can the VCRS Team help?

They provide the right amount of rehabilitation and care, which is tailored to a person's unique needs, to give the best chance of achieving as much independence as possible.

This support can be provided at home from a wide range of health and social care professions, including dietetics, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, podiatry, speech and language therapy, with proven success rates for independence.

Referrals to the service are made by both health and social care staff and we will work with people who have the potential for rehabilitation and are motivated to work with our team of experienced staff.

This new service has not only resulted in improved benefits for Vale residents who use the service but ensures that the work of health and social care is more integrated, avoids duplication and makes the most of valuable resources and experience.

If you think you or someone you know could be helped by the Vale Community Resource Service, you can contact a member of the Health or Social Care staff who will be able to give you more information.

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For more information on TeleV, please contact -
Os hoffech wybod mwy am TeleV, ffoniwch -

01446 700111
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Antique night

THE Porthcawl San Sebastian Twinning Association will hold an antique night at the General Picton, New Road, Porthcawl, at 7pm on Friday, February 17. Tickets, £7 each including meal and free raffle.

Owls 4 U

OWLS 4 U will be appearing at Cosmeston at their Bat and Bird box event on Saturday, February 18, from 10.30am-1pm, and at Style Garden Centre, Wenvoe, on Sunday, February 19, 10.30am-4.30pm. Come and meet the owls!

Penarth concert

A CLASSICAL concert and film night will be held on February 18 at The Paget Rooms, Penarth at 8pm.

Ivan Ilic, a Serbian/French professional pianist is currently on tour promoting his latest CD of Chopin/Godowsky etudes arranged for the left hand!

He also stars in a short film which has been entered into the Cannes Film Festival and this will be shown during the evening.

Contact Naomi Roberts on www.cafefinternational.org.uk

Age Concern advice

AGE CONCERN Barry is holding a series of topics of interest on health at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. Passmores of Barry will be available on Tuesday, February 21, 10am-12 noon, to give advice on will writing. Further information on 01446 732385.

Charity coffee

THE Vale Mayor will hold a charity coffee morning at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on February 21, 10.30am-12 noon. All proceeds will go to Arthritis Research UK.

Flower demo

ON February 22, Penarth Flower Arrangement Club will hold a demonstration evening at 7.30pm.

Rob Willis, from Risca, will give the demonstration at the Masonic Hall, Stanwell Road, Penarth.

Contact Ann Dobbins on 02920 703605 for details.

Gardening meeting

SULLY and District Gardening Society will be holding its first meeting of 2012 at The Old School, Sully, on Wednesday, February 22, starting at 7.30pm. The meeting will feature guest speaker Terry Walton - well known for his Radio 2, Radio Wales and TV appearances.

Admission will be free to society members, £3 to non members. Society membership will be available at the door.

Hockney trip

ON Thursday, February 23, Cowbridge Art Society has a day trip to the Royal Academy to see the David Hockney exhibition 'A Bigger Picture'.

The practical monoprinting session with Sue Edwards for that evening has, therefore, been postponed.

For further details of the society programme and activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com

RNLI AGM

THE annual general meeting of the fundraising branch of the RNLI at Penarth Yacht Club on Wednesday, March 14, at 2.30pm, is open to the public and all are invited to attend.

Ladies bowls

LLANTWIT MAJOR ladies bowls club is holding its pre-season meeting on Monday, February 27, in the pavilion at 11am.

New members will be most welcome. Contact secretary Pat Cook on 01446 793815 for information or enquiries.

Eisteddfod fundraiser

A ST DAVID'S Day dinner will be held in aid of the National Eisteddfod on Thursday, March 1, at The Blue Anchor, Aberthaw, at 7.30pm.

For details, contact Jackie Lougher on 07701 064707 or merrytop@hotmail.com or Sharne Williams on 01446 751073.

Tax help for elderly

TAX Help for Older People will hold a free advice session on income tax at Old Hall, Cowbridge, on March 1.

To book an appointment or to access the helpline telephone 0845 3321 or 01308 488066.

Players' rehearsal

THE Dinas Powys Players have chosen *Good Things* by Liz Lochhead as their next presentation at the Parish Hall on April 19, 20, 21.

The three-act play is described as funny yet poignant and is a touching drama which follows the 'ups and downs' of love and life of the charity shop volunteers.

Rehearsals are well in hand, with an experienced cast under Hilary Morgan, who is directing for the group for the first time.

For tickets, telephone 02920 512868 or 02920 512945.

Summer school

DO you remember, or were you involved, in the summer arts school that took place in Barry during the 1960s-70s?

The Vale Council's arts development officer is working with the community to re-create a project about the Barry Summer Arts School.

The project involves a partnership between the National Eisteddfod of Wales and the Eisteddfod voluntary visual arts group and is supported by the Arts Council of Wales and the Vale Council.

The main event will take place during July and August and will feature an arts exhibition at Art Central gallery in Barry Town Hall, linked with the National Eisteddfod at Llandow.

Residents and visitors will be able to take part in a range of multi-arts workshops in Welsh and English, including a mixture of visual, performing arts and literature workshops.

The summer school, led by founders Lesley Moore, artist and vice-principal and Wyndham Heycock, co-director between 1962-1973 and pioneering new approaches to art and education.

For more information, contact Tracey Harding, arts development officer on 01446 709805, t.harding@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or Heledd Griffiths, Art Central gallery assistant on 01446 440428, hmgriffiths@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

STAR ROBIN SKATES IN TO MEET HOSPICE CHILDREN

CHILDREN and staff at Ty Hafan welcomed Olympic skater Robin Cousins MBE to the hospice after his show, *Tropicana*, opened at the Motorpoint Arena last week.

The family hospice for young lives at Sully has been the Holiday on Ice nominated charity for the past 19 years and benefits from the gala night. During the performance, Frank Ady from Ty Hafan, was on hand to receive a cheque for £1,000.

The star visited Ty Hafan to meet some of the children and staff and commented: "This was a fantastic opportunity to visit Ty Hafan and to see how the money raised is used to directly benefit the families."

"It's good to know the money raised through *Holiday on Ice* is helping to give them real support and making a big difference to their lives."

For more information about Ty Hafan, visit www.tyhafan.org



Star Robin Cousins with a fan at the Ty Hafan hospice.

Ancient mariners swap sea tales at the town yacht club!

THREE of Barry's ancient mariners shared their experience of over 180 years of sailing at Barry Yacht Club last week.

More than 50 people attended the latest of the yacht club's winter talks, where three of the club's vice presidents and former Commodores, Brian Dotchon, Roger Donkin, and Michael Righton, shared their memories of the club's history - along with their own epic maritime tales of sailing in the Bristol Channel and further afield to the south coast, France and Scotland.

"It was wonderful to hear first-hand experiences of the yacht club's own history over the last 60 years, peppered with some humorous episodes of sailing exploits," said the Vice Commodore, Len Cattle.

Based at The Pier Head on Barry Island, Barry Yacht Club has some of the best sea sailing facilities in the Bristol Channel.

The club offers vari-



ous types of membership including sailing, fishing, cadet, or social members.

Barry Yacht Club is a not-for-profit organisation and was established in 1928. It currently has more than 250 members

from all parts of the Vale and Cardiff, attracting yachtsmen from as far away as Bristol and Birmingham.

Further details about the club can be found at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk

Barry's ancient mariners from left to right: Brian Dotchon, Roger Donkin and Michael Righton.

PACT meetings

DYFAN AND GIBBONS DOWN JOINT PACT surgery, 12 noon-2pm, February 20 at Colcot Community Centre, Keates Way, Barry.

CADOC PACT, 6pm on February 28 at Palmerston Community Learning Centre, Cadoc Crescent, Barry.

RHOOSE PACT, February 23 at Celtic Way Community Centre at 7pm.

TWYN-YR-ODYN coffee and chat, February 28 at the Horse and Jockey public house at 11am.

STANWELL PACT, March 2, Elfed Avenue United Church at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT, March 7 in Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brockhill Way at 7pm.

PARK CLEAN-UP

FOLLOWING feedback by local residents, the Court First independent team will be holding a litter pick at Batt's Field, Barry, on Sunday, February 19, at 10am.

Local councillor Richard Bertin said: "I would like to say a big thank you to all those who recently completed their residents' survey in the ward. One of the issues that has come up is the need to have a clean up in Batt's Field."

"We are eager to get involved and help clean up this park, and local residents are welcome to join us!"

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D709.

● £2,000: 293009.
● The rollover, which now stands at £4,000, was not won this week.
● £10: 7 6 7 3 9 8.

251993, 809953, 626289, 571655, 847232, 260798, 534584, 415136, 838289, 771467, 396616, 119981, 615143, 908729, 146122, 961475, 232829, 252343, 758871.
● £5: 567728, 415762, 180603, 632375, 970438, 800923, 885115, 208429, 752198, 837006, 539484, 772070, 473523, 563708, 481933, 554884, 300139, 502032, 129036, 289032, 228099, 721114, 805827, 529220, 443435, 912473, 861542, 589834, 606202, 346320, 405018, 340956, 719521, 826590, 248552, 468581, 375261, 287949, 495122, 621947, 282605, 139113, 744828, 764752, 483856, 573479, 667473, 120348, 690200, 499159, 343552, 205686, 334202, 170830, 409845.

912048, 433670, 341544, 227082, 246567.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

CONFIRMATION OF BYELAWS PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS ACT1964 VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

NOTICE is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council intend, after expiry of the one calendar month from the publication date of this notice to apply to the Welsh Government for confirmation of Byelaws made by the Council under section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

Copies of the Byelaws will be kept at the office of the Council at Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU, and will be open to inspection without payment on any weekday during usual office hours for one calendar month from and after the date of publication of this notice. Copies of the Byelaws will also be supplied on receipt of an application accompanied by a fee of £2.00 for each copy.

Any objection to the confirmation of these Byelaws may be made by letter addressed to Alyson Tyler, Library Development Adviser, CYMAL, Welsh Government, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UR within one calendar month from the publication date of this notice.

P.H. Evans, Director of Legal, Public Protection and Housing Services

Dated the 16th February, 2012



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HYSBYSIR trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ymhen mis calendr ar ôl dyddiad yr hysbysiad hwn, yn gwneud cais i Lywodraeth Cymru am gadarnhau'r is-ddeddfau a wnaeth y Cyngor o dan adran 19 Deddf Llyfrgelloedd Cyhoeddus ac Amgueddfeydd 1964.

Bydd copïau o'r is-ddeddfau'n cael eu cadw yn Swyddfeydd Dinesig y Cyngor, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU, ac ar gael i'w harchwilio'n rhad ac am ddim ar unrhyw diwrnod yn ystod yr wythnos am fis calendr ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn. Cewch gopïau o'r is-ddeddfau hefyd drwy anfon cais a £2.00 o dal am bob copi.

Gellwch wrthwynebu cadarnhau'r is-ddeddfau hyn drwy anfon llythyr at Alyson Tyler, Ymgynghorydd Datblygu Llyfrgelloedd, CYMAL, Llywodraeth Cymru, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UR cyn pen mis calendr ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

P.H. Evans, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Amddiffyn y Cyhoedd a Thai

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Deddf Cynllunio (Adeiladau Rhedredig Ac Ardaloedd Cadwraeth 1990)

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00049/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Two storey rear extension plus demolition of toilet block annex
Location/Lleoliad: 20, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00092/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Forming vehicle access through to rear garden with security gates and internal alterations
Location/Lleoliad: Rear building, 79, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00044/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg: Outline planning for seven self contained flats
Location/Lleoliad: Land at Barry Road, cornering Kenilworth Road, Barry

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00066/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Development of land for up to 100 dwellings, public open space and associated access
Location/Lleoliad: Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00036/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Change of use of vacant barn to holiday let, bunkhouse and owners accommodation
Location/Lleoliad: Garn Farm, St Hilary, Cowbridge

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00066/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Development of land for up to 100 dwellings, public open space and associated access
Location/Lleoliad: Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan

Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00066/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Development of land for up to 100 dwellings, public open space and associated access
Location/Lleoliad: Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00083/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Two new buildings and a new 100 space car park on the Beechwood Residential College Campus, Hayes Road, Sully
Location/Lleoliad: Beechwood House, Hayes Road, Sully

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vogl.planning-register.co.uk.

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddffydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod yr iau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vogl.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 16 February, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry,
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 16 Chwefor, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri,
CF63 4RT

ABOVE:
People who attend the masterclasses over the coming months will have the chance of performing in front of the cameras, to give them a solid grounding in the craft of screen acting.

Old boy returns to award school prizes

THE St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School held its prize giving evening recently to celebrate the phenomenal achievements of their students, both past and present.

Following on from the excellent inspection in January 2011, St Richard Gwyn achieved its best-ever GCSE results, 76 per cent A-C grades.

These were celebrated at the prize giving evening together with numerous other awards for current students.

The evening was attended by the new Archbishop of Cardiff, Most Reverend George Stack, who addressed more than 350 people with a witty and entertaining speech, and Jane Hutt AM, who spoke about the value of the education the pupils receive at St Richard Gwyn.

Dominic Busuttill, a past student, spoke on how St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School had influenced his life in a positive way. He also said the school had supported him with his rugby interests which resulted in him playing international rugby for Malta.

He presented the school with one of his international shirts. A wonderful evening was had by all with everyone joining in the celebrations.

CR

GEM readers prove they have talent – as acting scholarship winners for 2012 are announced

A woman from Cowbridge and a teenager from Barry won the fifth annual GEM/Ferris Entertainment Scholarships for 2012.

Bethan James (24) who works for a charity in Cardiff, and Ffion Phillips (13) who attends Stanwell Comprehensive School in Penarth, were the two individuals who impressed the judges and won.

They will be trained in screen acting for film and TV, and will appear in four films, which will be shot over the masterclass weekends which are held in Penarth.

The prize was worth £380 for each scholarship winner.

Screen acting tutor Peter Ferris said: "The standard was incredibly high."

"It seems to get better each year. With our acting agency getting an average of 30 auditions and castings a day for national and international film and TV, we are always on the look out for talented individuals of all ages, looks and

characters."

There was a great response to the introductory masterclass, with the ages ranging from 13 years old to 63 years old.

Peter explained: "One of our Belfast students Eugene Hynes, joined three years ago at the age of 41, having been invalided out of the fire service and having never acted in his life."

"In January, he just finished filming his first major feature film *The Good Man* with Irish actor Aiden Gillen."

"The choice was so difficult this year with so many characters and personalities to choose from including an amazing young 15-year-old, Jermaine King, who was so natural on camera; and 42-year-old Robert McGrath with his shaved head, scar and Sheffield accent, which makes him very interesting for the HBO Sky Atlantic Series 'Game of Thrones' which is filmed in Belfast and Malta."

"We get many of our actors auditioning for it through our Belfast office."

"In the end, the winners were Bethan James



ABOVE:
Peter Ferris with the GEM/Ferris Entertainment Scholarship winners 2012 Bethan James (left) and Ffion Phillips.

from Cowbridge and Ffion Phillips from Barry.

"Both of them gave just that extra little something in the audition that makes them stick in your mind and I am so pleased to have them with us for the films and hopefully for future auditions."

I really hope this is the catalyst to a successful career for both of them."

Peter added: "Everyone at Ferris

Entertainment would like to thank The Glamorgan GEM for supporting the scholarship for the past five years."

"This year, it was magic and packed with talented GEM readers."

Anyone interested in joining any of the masterclass films should contact Ferris Entertainment either directly on 07801 493 133 or via email at info@ferrisentertainment.com

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Arbedion arbennig ar docynnau o bob math i'r Eisteddfod Eleni

GYDA llai na chwe mis i fynd cyn i'r Eisteddfod

Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg am y tro cyntaf ers ymhell dros genhedlaeth, mae'r trefnwyr wedi cyhoeddi manylion nifer o ffyrdd cost-effeithiol i ymweld â'r Brifwyl yn ystod yr wythnos - hyd yn oed am un diwrnod yn unig.

Meddai Prif Weithredwr yr Eisteddfod, Elfed Roberts, "Rydym ni'n awyddus i sicrhau bod yr Eisteddfod mor hygyrch â phosibl ar gyfer pobl ar hyd a lled yr ardal, a rydym ni eisiau gweld nifer fawr o drigolion y Fro yn ymuno gyda ni yn Llandow o Awst 4-11. Mae'r gefnogaeth gan y gymuned leol wedi bod yn ardderchog dros y misoedd diwethaf a rydym yn gobeithio y bydd y brwdfrydedd yn parhau a thyfu wrth i ni gyhoeddi rhagor o fanylion am yr hyn fydd yn digwydd ymhen ychydig dan chwe mis.

"Mae tocynnau ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod yn mynd ar werth ar

Mawrth 1, ac mae'r rhain yn cynnwys tocynnau cyngherddau a thocynnau Maes. Mae gennym ni nifer o gynigion ar gyfer pobl sy'n prynu ymlaen llaw er mwyn eich helpu chi i arbed arian.

"Gallwch arbed dros 10% drwy brynu'ch tocynnau Maes dyddiol cyn 1 Gorffennaf, a gellir gwneud hyn ar lein -

www.eisteddfod.org.uk - neu drwy ffonio'r linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800 o Mawrth 1. Os ydych chi'n awyddus i dreulio ychydig dyddiau ar y Maes, beth am ein cynnig tridiau ar y Maes am bris deuddydd? Prynwch docynnau ar gyfer unrhyw ddau ddiwrnod ar y Maes a chwech docynnau am ddiwrnod arall o'ch dewis yn rhad ac am ddim. Mae arbedion gwirioneddol i'w cael drwy archebu ymlaen llaw.

"Mae manylion y cynigion arbennig i gyd i'w gweld ar ein gwefan, a byddwn hefyd yn dosbarthu gwybodaeth wrth i ni ymweld â gwahanol gymunedau ar hyd a lled y Fro dros y misoedd nesaf gyda Dilys y camper fan, felly edrychwn ymlaen i'ch gweld ym mhob cwr o Fro Morgannwg

dros yr wythnosau nesaf."

Os hoffech chi i Dilys ddod i'ch cymuned chi, ebostiwch ni - gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk - neu ffoniwch 0845 4090 300. Byddwn yn cyhoeddi manylion y daith dros yr wythnosau nesaf, a chofiwch ddod i'w gweld am gyfle i ennill tocynnau, nwyddau a mwyl. Am ragor o fanylion am Dilys ewch i www.van-goch.co.uk.

Effective ways to enjoy the Eisteddfod

WITH less than six months to go before the National Eisteddfod visits the Vale of Glamorgan, organisers have announced details of a number of cost-effective ways you can attend the festival during the week - even if you're only attending for one day.

Chief Executive, Elfed Roberts says: "We strongly believe in making the Eisteddfod as accessible as we can for local people across

the region, and we want to make sure that as many local Vale residents as possible have the chance to join us in Llandow from August 4-11.

"The support we've had from the local communities across the Vale has been marvellous and we are hoping that this support will continue to grow and develop over the next few months as we announce more details about this year's festival.

"Tickets for the events go on sale on March 1, and these include concert tickets and tickets to the Maes (field) itself. We've got a number of early bird offers this year, so why not order your tickets in advance to save some money?

"You can save over 10 per cent by purchasing your day tickets to the field before July 1. You can do this either online at www.eisteddfod.org.uk or by ringing our ticketline from March 1 onwards.

"We've also got a scheme for anyone wishing to spend a few days on the Maes - buy tickets for two days at the Eisteddfod and get a third day of your choice free of charge,



which is a great saving, especially if you want to bring the whole family to the festival.

"Details of all the special offers are available on our website, and we'll also be distributing information about all our offers when we'll be visiting different communities across the Vale before the end of the month, with Dilys the camper van, so we look forward to seeing you wherever you may live in the Vale over the next few weeks."

If you'd like Dilys to come to your community, get in touch either by emailing gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk or by ringing 0845 4090 300. We'll be announcing the full programme over the next few weeks, and remember to come and see us for a chance to win tickets, merchandise and more. For more details about Dilys go to www.van-goch.co.uk.

SIONED EDWARDS

BARRY historian Tom Clemett is helping out the National Eisteddfod by donating photographs of the last time it visited the Vale in 1968. Tom's images will be placed on display when the Eisteddfod opens at Llandow in August.

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£5 lunch allowance	£5 lunch allowance	£5 lunch allowance	£5 lunch allowance	£5 lunch allowance
40p per mile travelling allowance	40p per mile travelling allowance	40p per mile travelling allowance	40p per mile travelling allowance	40p per mile travelling allowance

To register you will need: Registration with the GTCW or have CACHE level 1-4 or a degree and have a minimum of 6 months experience with children in a classroom setting within the last 4 years.

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Start the music and light the lights... THE MUPPETS ARE BACK - RIGHT ON TOP FORM!

If anyone has caught any episode of *The Only Way Is Essex*, they will be more than familiar with a group of muppets taking over the TV screen; but the real Muppets have been away for a very long time, their last big-screen outing, *Muppets From Space*, only slightly more entertaining than that gaggle from Essex.

Writer/actor Jason Segel's desire to see a new Muppet movie has finally borne fruit with the release of the originally titled *The Muppets*.

Segel plays Gary, whose brother Walter (a muppet himself, though not considered one) is a massive fan of the show.

Along with Amy Adams as Mary, Gary's girlfriend, the trio have to track down the Muppets to help them stop their theatre being bought and destroyed by oil tycoon Tex Richman (Chris Cooper); as you may imagine, hilarity (and Miss Piggy) ensues.

It seems surprising, given the current fondness for looking back on popular culture, that *The Muppets* weren't brought out of the mothballs sooner.

After all, their brightly coloured, zany antics would no doubt entice the audience who remembered them first time round, while beguiling a whole new, younger demographic – is it possible to be young and not fall in love with a green frog?

That it has taken this long no doubt has something to do with the fact that *The Muppets* didn't go away quietly, seemingly hanging on past the point of usefulness, yet writers Jason Segel and Nicholas Stoller, along with director James Bobin, have managed to restore the group back to how they should be, the film is an absolutely riotous and extremely pleasurable way to spend an hour or two.

This is a 'getting-the-band-back-together' film, the aim of Gary, Walter and Mary to put the group back to where they should be and fight off the megalomaniac intentions of the villainous Tex Richman, so it plays more to

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

the the established crowd than any newcomers, but this is unabashedly a kid's film for adults.

With a U certificate, the film plays its humour cleanly and cleverly, and Segel and Stoller mine great comedic potential from the set-up, throwing in song and dance numbers, knowing nods to the audience with constant breaks of the fourth wall and, more importantly, letting *The Muppets* be *The Muppets*.

It is this last element that is so important, the characters

not having to be shoehorned into pre-existing characters as they were in, say, *A Muppet's Christmas Carol*. They are instead allowed to be themselves and fun and inanity spring from it.

The script takes no great pains to be cynical or negative about the characters, even moments of conflict are easily resolved, and the light-weight tone suits perfectly.

Jason Segel and Amy Adams are both game for a laugh here, playing their best straight faces, albeit with a knowing wink here and there, and the raft of cameos from the likes of Jack Black, Rashida Jones and Alan Arkin brings a smile.

However, it's the incredibly talented work of the humans behind the furry folks that will have you most impressed.

No doubt in this world of computer trickery it would have been easy to merely generate the characters on a hard drive, but the skill of the puppetry on show is truly wonderful to watch and gives the characters a reality that is hard to bypass.

With *Flight of the Conchord's* Bret Mackenzie

delivering witty and impressive songs (any fans of the band won't feel shortchanged by the likes of 'Man Or Muppet'), fellow Conchord alumni James Bobin is mightily impressive in his debut big screen outing, the director broad yet wonderfully low-key, an anarchic energy flowing through that puts the cherry on top of the cake.

Bringing the characters back into the 21st century with a bang, *The Muppets* may very well be the kick start that could unleash a whole new era for the group; if that is the case more adventures in this vain wouldn't be amiss.

VERDICT – A veritable delight, *The Muppets* sees the gang back on fine form and not missing a beat. A hugely entertaining film that will leave you with a nice big dumb smile and relieve you of any cynicism (for two hours at least). It ticks all the boxes and makes for a really wonderful piece of work. Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Muppet Movie* (1979), *The Great Muppet Caper* (1981).

Police opt for 5 percent council tax charge rise

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE South Wales Police Authority has decided to increase the policing element of council tax by five per cent.

This increase takes the amount paid for policing a Band D household to £169.42 for 2012-13.

While the council tax has increased, the overall police spending for next year has reduced by £8million to £249million for 2012-13, as a result of cuts from Central Government.

The chair of the Police Authority, Coun Russell Roberts, said: "It is very disappointing that once again, the Government has ignored its own findings and not given us the full amount of grant we need to police south Wales.

"If we received our full grant allocation, it would mean no police officer and staff cuts.

"We are responsible for policing Cardiff, our nation's capital city. Yet, this is not reflected in our funding.

"It cannot be right that Llanelli and the Metropolitan Police Service receive additional funding for policing the capital cities of Edinburgh and London, yet we do not receive anything for the additional responsibilities of policing Cardiff."

This is the final budget to be agreed by South Wales Police Authority, before the introduction of a Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012.

From next year, it will be the responsibility of the Commissioner to decide the council tax precept, and the spending of the police budget.

The election for the first Police and Crime Commissioner will take place across Wales and England on November 15.

Coun Roberts continued: "80 per cent of our

budget is spent on police officers and staff. It is impossible to find further savings without looking at reducing the number of people who work for us.

"We intend to reduce police numbers through natural retirement and through the use of police regulations for some officers with more than 30 years' service through the A19 process."

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL THOMPSON STREET (PART) AND BROAD STREET (PART) BARRY (PARKING CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and pursuant to Part III of Schedule 9 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is as specified in the Schedule below.

2. Full details of the proposals including the proposed Order may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services (Ref. IF672) in writing by 9th day of March 2012 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE

The following Traffic Regulation Orders to be amended as follows:

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Barry Central Area) (Parking Control) (Consolidation and Amendment) Order 2009.

In schedule 4B, delete the text;

Limitation on waiting to 2 hours no return within 2 hours 8.00am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday.

and insert;

Limitation on waiting to 2 hours no return within 2 hours 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday.

The County Council of South Glamorgan (Broad Street/Holton Road, Barry) (Prohibition of Waiting/Limited Waiting) Order 1992.

In paragraph 1(ii), delete and replace with;

Between the hours of 8am and 6pm on any other day than a Sunday for more than 2 hours in the lengths of road referred to in Schedule 2 to this Order if in respect of the length of road concerned a period of less than 2 hours has elapsed since the termination of the last period of waiting (if any) of the vehicle in that road.

In schedule 2 item (i), paragraphs (a) and (b) delete and replace with;

(a) On its north side from a point 15 metres west of its junction with Buttrills Road for a distance of 12 metres west and from a point 74 metres west of its junction with Buttrills Road for a distance of 24 metres west.

(b) On its south side from a point 50 metres west of its junction with Buttrills Road for a distance of 12 metres west.

The County Council of South Glamorgan (Broad Street/Gladstone Road, Barry) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 1977.

Delete paragraph 1(b) in its entirety.

Dated this 16th day of February 2012

M. Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012 GORCHYMYN RHEOLI PARCIO (DIWYGIEDIG) (RHANNAU O THOMPSON STREET A BROAD STREET Y BARRI)

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adranau 81, 82, 83 ac 84 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwgiedig), ac yn unol â Rhan III o Atodlen 9, a phob p_er galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn i'r diben cyfyddinol a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynigion llawn, gan gynnwys y Gorchymyn, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa. Dylech gyfeirio unrhyw wrthwynebiad sydd gennych i'r cynnig hwn i Bennaeith Gwasanaethau Gweladwy (Cyf. IF672) ar ffurf llythyr erbyn 9 Mawrth 2012, gan egluro'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

3. Os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r Gorchymyn, cofiwch fod gan y cyhoedd hawl o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985 i weld unrhyw sylwadau sy'n cael eu gwneud, a bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor i ddarparu ar gyfer hynny.

ATODLEN

Diwygier y Gorchymynion Rheoli Traffig canlynol:

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Atgyferthu a Diwygio Rheolau Parcio) (Ardal Canol y Barry) 2009.

Yn atodlen 4B, dileu'r ystun canlynol;

Hawl i aros am 2 awr yn unig 8.00am - 6.30pm (dydd Llun - dydd Sadwrn) ac ni chaniateir dychwelyd a pharcio o'r newydd o fewn y ddwy awr honno.

a dod i'r ystun hwn yn ei le;

Hawl i aros am 2 awr yn unig 8.00am - 6.00pm (dydd Llun - dydd Sadwrn) ac ni chaniateir dychwelyd a pharcio o'r newydd o fewn y ddwy awr honno.

Gorchymyn Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg (Gwahardd Aros/Cyfyngu ar Aros) (Broad Street/Holton Road, Y Barry) 1992.

Ym mharagraff 1(ii), dileu'r ystun canlynol a dod i'r ystun canlynol yn ei le;

(a) Ar ei ochr ogleddol o fan sy'n 15 metr i'r gorllewin o'r gyffordd â Buttrills Road am 12 metr i'r gorllewin, ac o fan sy'n 74 metr i'r gorllewin o'r gyffordd â Buttrills Road am 24 metr i'r gorllewin.

(b) Ar ei ochr dde o fan sy'n 50 metr i'r gorllewin â'r gyffordd â Buttrills Road am 12 metr i'r gorllewin.

Gorchymyn Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg (Gwahardd Aros) (Broad Street/Gladstone Road, Y Barry) 1977.

Dileu'r paragraff 1(b) yn llwyr.

Dyddiedig 16 Chwefror 2012

M. Punter,
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



'Powerful display' commemorates Holocaust Day

THE 'Blue Line' exhibition continues at Art Central in Barry's King Square Town Hall with paintings and sculptures by Nicola Tucker and Maciej Hoffman.

Described as 'conflict and war' artists, Nicola is from Wales and Maciej from Poland.

They have brought the exhibition together as a result of their travels, experiences and knowledge, making a powerful exhibition to mark

Holocaust Memorial in Barry.

An interested visitor was Vale AM Jane Hutt who said: "This is a powerful exhibition which depicts the theme of conflict and war so ever present in our troubled world.

"However, the memory of the Holocaust makes this work stronger than ever, with stark truths we must never forget."

The exhibition runs until February 25 at Art Central, Barry Town Hall and Library, King Square, Barry.

'Current CRB checks must be made' – claim members of local taxi drivers' association

by
TIM CHAPMAN

THE case of a taxi driver who was licensed by a Vale Council committee without an up-to-date criminal record check, has caused concern among his colleagues.

They claim the move is unprecedented and throws official procedures into doubt.

But the chairman of the licensing committee has pointed out that the applicant had previously had a CRB check, that committee members had examined the facts, and were content that the taxi driver was "a fit and proper person".

Steve Thomas, chairman of the Vale of Glamorgan Taxi Association, told THE GEM: "At the January licensing meeting, the committee went against the advice of the licensing officers and granted a taxi driver's badge to an applicant who did not meet the criteria of the conditions and did not even get a CRB check."

A Criminal Records Bureau check is designed to ensure that people in positions of trust are of good character. Typically, taxi drivers have a new check every three years.

The individual, who has not been named, was referred to as 'A' in council documentation and has had a previous CRB check.

It is understood council officers were concerned at information on

his application relating to addresses. The committee decided, after issuing a warning, that he could drive without the requirement of an up-to-date check.

Mr Steve Thomas stated: "The vast majority of the local taxi trade are appalled that in this day and age a taxi badge has been granted to an applicant who cannot be thoroughly checked out."

"This has happened at a time when we're all asked to vigilant on security issues."

Fellow association member, Mike Moore of A2B Taxis, said that taxi drivers had voiced their concerns during a meeting with the committee.

"I asked councillors whether they would let their daughter or son, or another family member, in a taxi with a driver who had not had the proper checks and they would not answer me."

"Two things need to be done. The decision is wrong and should be overturned."

"Secondly, something should be put in place so this doesn't happen again."

"We thought we needed CRB checks by law, but if you listen to the committee chairman it is not an absolute legal requirement. All local taxi drivers have paid £44 for

current CRB checks."

Mr Moore stressed that the uncertainty over what checks were required was bad for the reputation of the taxi industry.

However, Coun John Thomas, the chairman of licensing committee, emphasised: "The CRB disclosure is only one means that the licensing committee uses to satisfy themselves that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence."

"In the case of this application, the committee took into consideration all the facts that were laid before them, including the fact that this applicant had previously held a Vale Council 'Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers' Licence' and had previously been subjected to a CRB check by the council."

"After hearing all the facts, Members were satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person."

"The decision is a decision made on the facts of the application and is lawful."

Coun Thomas added: "The requirement for a CRB disclosure is the policy of the Vale Council for all applicants. If a driver is unable to obtain one, then it is the duty of the licensing committee to consider the application on its merits and it would not be lawful to refuse an application without considering all the facts."

Barry just pipped at post in (red and yellow) card game

It was a great pleasure to meet old friends from North Berwick before and after the fixture last Saturday.

The first game between Barry and the Scottish club was played way back in 1958, and many long-term friendships have been forged since then. As for the Wales and Scotland match on Sunday, the consensus was that Wales would win, but not by too many points!

Conditions could not have been better, with firm ground underfoot and a clear blue sky. Neither Barry, nor fellow mid-tables Abercwmboi, had played for a fortnight and the opening skirmishes exhibited the expected rustiness.

Playing uphill, Barry were in the lead after 10 minutes, courtesy of a long-range penalty by Lee.

Abercwmboi settled down to play some good rugby through their dangerous and

**BARRY RFC
ABERCWMBOI RFC**

**11
16**

speedy backs. They created enough pressure to force Barry onto the defensive and earned a penalty on the home 10-metre line. The kick was well stuck and just cleared the crossbar to square the scores.

Each side picked up a further penalty during another period of scrappy play. Unfortunately, each side also picked up a yellow card, following a large-scale melee on the half-way line.

Barry squandered a good chance for a try wide out on the left, running out of space when someone needed to have straightened the line.

Despite the efforts of hooker Evans, Hollister and Parker, the end of the first half saw the match evenly balanced at six points apiece.

The second session started very brightly for the home XV, with a very good try for Provis from broken play. His fellow backs worked hard to free him from

40 metres and he made no mistake on the run-in. Lee converted with ease.

Following this reverse, Abercwmboi roused themselves and began to put the home defence under continuous pressure.

While Barry ignored the obvious tactical choice of kicking downhill for position, they were always going to spend long periods defending deep in their own half.

The inevitable penalty arrived, allowing their opponents to cut the deficit with a further penalty. Around this point, a mass brawl ensued and each side had a player red carded.

A further yellow card for Barry meant that they were finding it

more and more difficult to repel Abercwmboi attacks.

With only five minutes left, Barry looked to have edged the game but their opponents had other ideas! They scored a well-engineered try near enough to the posts to make the conversion a formality.

A bitter blow was made worse when, on the verge of full time Lee suffered what appeared to be a serious elbow injury.

Barry team: Hunt, Evans, Hollister, McTavish, King, Deguara, Parker, Jones, Lee, Ryan, Williams, Bustill, Provis, Evans, Adams. Subs: Bowditch, Jones, Williams, Poole.

Next Saturday, Barry are at home to Caerleon in the next round of the SWALEC Bowl; kick-off is at 2pm.

CO

Send us your match reports to:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.

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EAST WALK, BARRY

Extended semi detached, spacious 23ft lounge, sitting room, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms, garage and driveway, enclosed rear garden, spacious living throughout.

£174,950



RHODFA SWELDON, BARRY

Three bedroomed, waterfront views, mid link modern townhouse, ground floor: bedroom, shower room, utility room, 1st floor: kitchen/diner, living room, 2nd floor: two bedrooms - both with ensuite, no chain

£167,995



COLCOT ROAD, BARRY

Well presented, two double bedroomed, traditional bay fronted semi, living room, fitted kitchen/breakfast, utility room, 1st floor shower room, UPVC and GC heating via combi, driveway/garage

£139,950



PLYMOUTH ROAD, BARRY

Showhome presented, spacious living, extended semi detached, three rec rooms, kitchen, utility, wc, cloak, four bedrooms, master ensuite, dressing room, enclosed garden - garage, off rd parking, upvc DG-GC heating via combi.

£169,950



CLAUDE ROAD, BARRY

Three bedrooms, semi detached traditional, living room with french doors, replacement kitchen/diner, integrated appliances, driveway leading to garage, enclosed rear garden, upvc DG heating.

£142,500



PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY

Having been renovated in 2007, extended semi detached, living room, kitchen/diner, sitting room, utility & wc shower room, three bedrooms, luxury fitted bathroom, replacement roof, garage/parking, larger than average rear garden.

£232,950



PENCOEDTRE ROAD, BARRY

Victorian stone built, spacious detached, four rec. rooms, 2 bathrooms, large corner plot, front, side & rear gardens, off rd parking, GCH via combi, upvc DG

£249,950



BEATTY CLOSE, BARRY

Spacious corner positioned link detached cul-de-sac position, wc cloakroom, living room, dining room, conservatory, sitting room or 5th bedroom, utility area, four bedrooms, sea views from 1st floor.

£186,950



PORT ROAD WEST, BARRY

Spacious family home, semi detached extended, living room, kitchen/diner, three double bedrooms, garage converted to sitting room, far reaching views over vale, driveway/parking.

£224,950



MOORINGS, HIGHLIGHT PARK, BARRY

Semi detached dwelling, dorma bungalow, situated on a large plot, three bedrooms, living room & conservatory, sought after location, ample room to extend (subject to usual planning consent), garage/driveway

£299,950



CAER FFYNON, BARRY

Four bedrooms, modern detached, shower/w.c. cloakroom, living room & dining room, fitted kitchen - integrated appliances, far reaching sea views, raised decked sun terrace, garage/driveway

£249,950



FONMON ROAD, RHOSOE

Detached dorma bungalow, four bedrooms, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, enclosed larger than average garden, garage & driveway with ample parking, well presented throughout, consider exchange for 2 bed bungalow in the vale area.

£259,950



SOUTHBOURNE COURT, BARRY

Approx 20 years old, modern semi detached dorma bungalow, fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, two double bedrooms, upvc double glazed, gas central heating via a combination boiler, double driveway in width for ample parking, enclosed low maintenance garden.

£124,950



HOLLY COURT, BARRY

First floor apartment, communal door entry system, living room with balcony, two bedrooms, family bathroom, UPVC DG, parking, no chain

£85,000



WILLOW CRESCENT, BARRY

Built approx 36 years ago, semi detached property, larger than average rear garden, laid to lawn with raised decked, diner/kitchen, 1 reception rooms & conservatory, UPVC/DG & combi boiler, driveway/garage, opportunity to extend to side & rear.

£149,950



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or apply in writing to:

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Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department

Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or

Newydd Housing Association

121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL



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• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
• Warden and parking
• Communal entrance
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HANOVER COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 1083951
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical issues) - no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor (no lift)
• Walk-in shower
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Manager and alarm
Rent £88.54 per week including service charges

BELLE VUE CLOSE, PENARTH



H4U Reference 242953
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
Not suitable for applicants with mobility issues
• One-bed first floor flat
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Community alarm
Rent £83.67 p/w inc. alarm service and water charges

CARNE COURT, LLANTWIT MAJOR



H4U Reference 233571
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
Rent £92.77 per week including water charges

DAWAN CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 207165
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• Double glazing
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H4U Reference 213229
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• Double glazing
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H4U Reference 347658
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H4U Reference 241240
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• Three-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
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NEWHOUSE COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 1082855
Suitable for a couple over 55 - no pets
• Two-bedroom flat
• Second floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Communal gardens
Rent £78.80 per week including service charge

OAK COURT, PENARTH



H4U Reference 1081534
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• First floor (with lift)
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Scheme Manager & alarm
Rent £92.44 per week including service charges

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H4U Reference 1082577
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• Studio flat
• First floor (with lift)
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Scheme Manager & alarm
Rent £92.55 per week including service charges

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 220002
Suitable for a small family
• Two-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
Rent £88.03 per week including water charges

QUEENS ROAD, PENARTH



H4U Reference 242592
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
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• First floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Community alarm
Rent £79.54 per week including alarm service and water charges

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Newydd is a charitable housing association.

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Arthur Davis Court	3	Bronze	20/12/11
Avocet Court	55	Gold	26/01/11
Cwt Meln Y Rhoe	26	Silver	06/07/11
Fieldview Close	24	Gold	22/08/11
Harvey Street	28	Silver	06/07/10
Maes Yr Ysgol	98	Gold+	26/01/10
Tipscott House	47	Silver+	14/11/11
Thompson Street	45	Gold+	01/08/11
Laugharne Court	31	Gold	12/05/11
Meirion Close	43	Silver+	22/05/11

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All properties are unfurnished and will be rented on Assured Shorthold tenancies. The weekly rent will be approximately £122.00 for a two-bedroom property and £133.00 for a three-bed property.

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Family Notices

COOPER Stanley Lewis

Suddenly on 11th February 2012, Stan of Llantwit Major. Dear loved husband of the late Lillian, loving father of Kenneth, June, Angela and the late Annette, father-in-law of Lorraine.

A much loved grandfather of Ian and wife Rachel, Richard, Lisa, David, Lewis and Chloe and great grandfather of Joshua, Samuel and Connor and cousin of Barbara.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the Funeral Service on Wednesday, 22nd February 2012 in Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to P.D.S.A. No black at Stan's request.

DAVIES VIVIENNE

Gavin, Leighton, Michael and family would like to thank all friends, neighbours, customers of Tudor Garage and the village of Ystradowen for their many cards and words of comfort and support during Vivienne's illness.

Thanks must also go to her sisters, friends, carers and District Nurses who enabled Vivienne to spend her last days at home. A special thank you to Dr Terry Stuart who was always there for both Vivienne and myself, not only in a professional capacity but as a good friend. My thanks to Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors and Minister Heather Weddell for a beautiful Service and for the donations received in respect of Cancer Research Wales and to the many who attended the Funeral to say their last goodbyes to Vivienne.

Words are not enough to thank you all.

Betty Williams

The Reverend Norman Williams and family wish to thank relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy shown following the death of Betty, also for the many cards and messages that they have received and for the donations to the NSPCC.

Kathleen Malings

Peacefully on February 1, in hospital after a short illness, Kathleen, aged 91 years, of Rhoose. Beloved wife of the late Leslie John, she will be sadly missed by all her family. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Thursday February 23, service 1.45pm at Porthkerry Church followed by private cremation. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to MacMillan Nurses c/o Mrs C. James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

To see your Family Notice in The GEM, please contact us on 01446 774484 or via e-mail at gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk

MURRAY Lynda

Suddenly in the early morning of 13th February, Lynda of 2 Edmund Place, Barry. Passed away. Tony Davies her beloved partner will miss her greatly. Funeral arrangements to be arranged.

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HOWE Stephen William

Suddenly on 9th February at his home in St Athan, Howie beloved husband of Dawn, brother-in-law of Billy, uncle of Tracey and Dean.

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18-year-old golf star urges young to perform above par

WALES' young golfing sensation, Rhys Pugh, is helping to find the stars of the future by backing a new training scheme offered by the Vale Resort to encourage more young people to try the sport.

The Pontypridd 18-year-old, who was recently crowned the 'BBC Cymru Wales Carwyn James Junior Sportsman of the Year' after becoming the youngest ever person to win the Amateur Order of Merit at the Welsh Men's Amateur Championship, started off his glittering career at the Vale Resort's junior coaching programme in 2002.

Since then, he has gone on to win three out of three matches for Great Britain and Ireland



at the 2011 Walker Cup, the amateur equivalent of the Ryder Cup, and was awarded Wales' joint 'Top Amateur Golfer of 2011' by the Golfing Union of Wales, along with Amy Boulden.

He holds the record as the youngest player to represent Wales, an hon-

our he achieved as a 15-year-old in the 2009 Home Internationals.

Rhys, who is studying in East Tennessee University, USA, competes on the challenging US collegiate golf tour.

He said: "I've been a member of the golf club at the Vale Resort since I was eight years old, and the teaching and encouragement I received from instructors there all those years ago has been invaluable grounding for my career so far.

"I hope that the Vale's new scheme will harness this renewed interest young people are showing for golf, and encourage more young people to follow in my footsteps by picking up a club and getting out on to the green."

The new junior golf-

ing package at the Vale Resort at Hensol is aimed at enabling more young people to take up the sport.

Open to young people aged between eight and 18 years old, it includes free access to the Vale's Academy Coaching Scheme, a copy of the academy's coaching manual and more than 50 per cent off the junior membership subscription for the first year.

Clive Coombs, golf manager at the Vale Resort, said: "Rhys is just one of our members who has achieved great things by using the facilities and coaching here at Vale Resort, and we're extremely grateful that he's helping us encourage the next generation to get excited about golf."

Peugeot Bipper Tepee mixes business with real pleasure!

DON'T mix business with pleasure... That old adage has stood many a businessman and woman in good stead, including my successful old boss at Hampshire the county magazine, who has since sadly passed away.

Paul Cave, who was also legendary crooner Frankie Vaughan's manager, used to frequently advise colleagues on the subject. He was well placed to, being married to Joan for over 60 years.

But even he conceded that there can be occasions where these two pursuits sit as comfortable bedfellows, such as when brokering deals on the golf course, as he frequently did.

In much the same way, the van-like Peugeot Bipper Tepee represents an interesting opportunity for savvy small traders or taxi drivers with families.

Monday to Friday, it provides versatile transport for lugging loads, with ample room for deliveries and ease of access thanks to sliding rear doors, which could also be helpful for disabled passengers.

My wife finds these doors very easy and lightweight to open when compared to standard car doors. Come the weekend this unusually named vehicle (I have researched this name and it appears that 'Bipper' is completely made up while 'Tepee' is a form of tent) doubles up as highly capable family transport with a good amount of room inside.

What a great option for the small business wanting to keep a tight rein on the budget: invest in one vehicle rather than two.

On taking delivery of a bright red example, Postman Pat instantly sprang to mind, while work colleagues asked whether, now that I was driving a Fire Service vehicle, I had a blue light to stick on the roof. These comments aside, the Pug offers very well priced (sub-£14,000), comfortable and economical transport.

It is noticeably quite high off the ground, giving the driver a good view of the road ahead. Inside, all controls are within easy reach and while there is no central armrest the driver's seat incorporates a useful folding one.

Driver comfort is para-

MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS



The Peugeot Bipper Tepee.

mount and Peugeot is particularly strong in this area. There's even a footrest, which is quite something considering that the much dearer Volvo S60 doesn't have one. The steering wheel is helpfully moulded ensuring that the hands sit in the all-important 10 and two o'clock positions.

There's a reasonable five-speed box, which can be a little indecisive particularly when changing from fifth to fourth.

Plenty of headroom will please those over six-foot while the dash provides much storage space. There are no carpets, instead the floors are covered in a low maintenance, hardwearing anti-slip black plastic. There are also electric front

windows.

When negotiating a roundabout, the driver's right leg, which is at the same height as the door handle, can sometimes push it, resulting in all the doors locking.

Arguably the tailgate would be more user-friendly if it was split fold – in its current form it is cumbersome when opening.

The Bipper Tepee has to compete against others including the almost identical Citroen Berlingo and the slightly peculiar Skoda Roomster. Where the latter looks as if Skoda didn't bother consulting a designer at least it seems that one has cast their eyes over the Peugeot. While its appearance is still perhaps an

acquired taste, once you're behind the wheel you don't really care what it looks like anyway.

Parkers, the car experts, write: "The Bipper Tepee is a small yet practical run-about that's based on the Bipper van – something that's evident in its boxy looks and rather sparse cabin. It may not look very dynamic, but the square shape means plenty of interior space and a large boot. The rear bench seat can fold down, plus it's removable, allowing you to boost the carrying ability to van-like proportions. On the road it's easy to drive and happy at motorway speeds, while the compact size makes it a doddle to squeeze into small parking spots."

You can't really fault this very well priced vehicle.

It's efficient, offers bags of space and is pretty nippy too.

Peugeot Bipper Tepee Outdoor with engine stop/start £13,245. 0-60mph: 16.8secs, Top speed: 99mph, Power: 75bhp, Economy: 65mpg (combined).

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Battling Scots regain pride as Wales pursue title dream

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

WHAT a difference a year makes... Struggling Wales made the long journey north to Edinburgh almost exactly 12 months ago, on an eight-game losing streak, with head coach Warren Gatland's position under growing threat, amid mutterings fanned by the media.

Scotland had been firm pre-match favourites, but

in the event, Wales shrugged off a bleak 10 months of failure to stun Murrayfield with a comfortable 24-6 victory – their eighth in 10 recent encounters between the two – sealed by Shane Williams' record-breaking 53rd try.

In fact, since going down 9-3 in the first clash between the two nations on January 8, 1883 (when the Home Championship debutants arrived in the Scottish capital one man short and had to borrow a Scotland replacement, a Dr A Griffin of Edinburgh University!) Wales went on to win 65 of the 116 matches, losing 48, with three games drawn.

On Sunday, the Welsh camp were confident of extending this winning record at the Millennium Stadium, on the back of their acclaimed World Cup displays Down Under in the autumn, and the impressive 23-21 victory over Ireland in Dublin the previous Sunday.

In contrast, Scotland's disappointing World Cup form had continued with a 6-13 Six Nations home defeat to England in an error-ridden Calcutta Cup clash at Murrayfield the same weekend.

However, before the Welsh team ran out in front of a hugely-expectant crowd of 73,189 on Sunday afternoon, assistant coach Robert Howley clearly feared a backlash from that match: "Scotland really should have beaten England and they will be disappointed. We must be ready for them on Sunday.

"The Six Nations is a magical championship and the one thing we know is that if you don't front up, you can get beaten."

His blunt message was echoed by Gatland, who cautioned his team not to underestimate the Scots who, after all, had come perilously near to causing a shock Six Nations upset, before going down 31-24 in an absorbing, drama-filled thriller at Cardiff two years ago.

The pragmatic Kiwi warned: "We cannot afford to underestimate Scotland. With the amount of possession and territory they had against England, they should have won the game and they will come to the Millennium Stadium buoyed by that knowledge and determined to answer the critics with a win against Wales."

For much of the first half, it seemed the warnings had fallen on deaf ears; for despite a bright, initial opening – when the powerful Welsh backline threatened to sweep the desperate defence aside – Scotland held firm and, in fact, struck the first blow with a successful penalty kick, before proceeding to more than hold their own in both the tight and loose exchanges.

Whether the second row disruption and late withdrawal of the skipper (their only genuine upside, Sam Warburton) through injury, was a decisive factor, or simply that the pre-match hype following the Dublin victory had fostered a casual complacency, or over-confidence, in this still-developing young Welsh squad, is hard to say.

It did seem, though, that despite the coaches' repeated warnings, they did not appear to have taken the Scottish challenge seriously enough, failing to capitalise on early territorial gains and turn pressure into points, apart from a solitary penalty by full back Leigh Halfpenny.

Worryingly, in the absence of Warburton, there were problems at the breakdown and again in the line-out (though thankfully, the ever-reliable Adam Jones was his usual rocklike self in stabilising the setpiece).

Whatever the reason for Welsh hiccups, the lively, though limited Scottish attack, though still glaringly error-prone, was inspired to greater efforts, coming more and more into the game and laying siege to the Welsh line.

In the end, scrum half Mike Phillips was only too glad to lob the ball out of play to end a problematic first half in which Wales were fortunate to go into the interval on level terms at 3-3.

One can only imagine what Gatland and his crusty No 2, Shaun Edwards, had to say in the dressing room, but whatever it was did the trick, for Wales came back on to the field a side transformed – Blues' wing Alex Cuthbert powering through for a

Pictures courtesy of the Huw Evans Agency.



ABOVE:

Wales' other giant wing, Alex Cuthbert, swats Scottish defenders aside and powers through for his side's opening try after the interval, to launch his team's second half revival.

LEFT:

Leigh Halfpenny shone for Wales with two smartly-taken tries, and he was also on form with his place kicking – for a match total of 22 points



converted himself.

Halfpenny then had a chance to have the final say, but for once failed with a penalty attempt – and another thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining clash between these two old rivals ended with a final score-line of 27-13.

For Scotland, despite their two defeats, there is much to build on, for at least their pride has been restored somewhat by a much-improved display, after the bitter disappointment of their poor performance against England.

For Wales, the championship dream goes on, with first a Triple Crown beckoning at Twickenham on February 25, followed by two more home games – against Italy and France, whose match with Ireland was iced off on Saturday – leaving the prospect of a title showdown with Wales hanging tantalisingly in the air.

try converted by Halfpenny soon after the resumption.

When centre Jonathan Davies was brought down without the ball while in full flow two minutes later, bringing the first of two yellow cards for Scotland, suddenly Wales were in the driving seat.

Even a second penalty by the impressive Scottish outside half Greig Laidlaw did not interrupt the Welsh flow, for Halfpenny scampered over for the first of his two tries which he converted himself.

When Halfpenny added his second try (which he again converted) Wales were in a seemingly insurmountable position at 27-6, with 25 minutes to go, and with 'Bread of Heaven' and 'Hymns & Arias' resounding around the ground, the jubilant home fans waited for the floodgates to open.

It didn't happen – and the credit for this must go to a courageous and determined effort by do-or-die Scots, who simply refused to throw in the towel and, in fact, were controversially denied a touchdown by referee Roman Poite of France.

However, they were not to be denied for long and fittingly it was Laidlaw who plunged through a melee of players for a try which he

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